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C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 000009

SIPDIS

FOR NEA, EUR/CE, AND CA/OCS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/07/2020
TAGS: [PREL](#) [YE](#) [BU](#) [TS](#)
SUBJECT: BULGARIAN INTEREST IN THE SITUATION IN YEMEN

Classified By: Ambassador Gordon Gray for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Bulgarian Ambassador to Tunisia Doykov called on the U.S. Ambassador on January 6 to discuss the situation in Yemen. Drawing on the helpful points provided by NEA, Ambassador Gray briefed his Bulgarian counterpart on our assessment of the situation there and on possible next steps.

The Bulgarian Ambassador also asked about the possibility of USG assistance for the evacuation of official and non-official Bulgarians in Yemen, should the need arise. (He explained that Sofia did not want to be caught unprepared, suggesting it had been in Lebanon during the summer of 2006.)

Doykov said that while there was only one Bulgarian diplomat in Yemen, several Bulgarian medical personnel currently work there. In reply, Ambassador Gray undertook to convey to Washington Bulgaria's interest, adding that any answer would be delivered in Washington, Sofia, or Sanaa.

¶2. (C) Comment: We are reporting this conversation for the record because the Bulgarian Ambassador told us his MFA sent an instruction cable to 15-20 capitals (including Washington, London, Brussels, Ankara, Athens, and Cairo, as well as Tunis) requesting posts to provide views on Yemen. The Bulgarian Ambassador here has spoken with the head of the EU delegation and the British Charg, and is seeking meetings with the Tunisian MFA and the Yemeni Ambassador. End comment.

GRAY